LONDON, APRIL 13, 1854. We have delayed commencing our weekly communication, hoping that we might thereby avoid having to contradict at the conclusion of it any thing which we had stated "upon the best authority" at its beginning; but we have still nothing positive to announce about the war, either in the Baltic or the Black Sea or on the Danube. With 25,000 British soldiers and 40,000 French ones in Turkey, a large allied fleet in the Black Sea, and a much larger English one in the Baltie; with the towards Sophia through Servia, we may certainly look for news of the deepest importance day by day. Adgallant old Admiral signalled the fleet on the 6th instant, as follows :

"Laps: War is declared against Russia. The enemy is powerful. Let him attack us, and you will know how to deal with him. Should he remain in port, we will go and seek him. Remember that short and rapid firing gains the day. Sharpen your cutlasses, and the victory will

There is a fine defiance of logic in the conclusion of the address that smacks of the Irishman, and reminds one how the Irish regiments used to rush impetuously and irresistibly upon the enemy in the peninsula. "Success depends upon the quickness and precision of your firing," is the general principle laid down by Sir Charles; the practical application of it comes all the more effectively for its unexpectedness. "Lads, sharpen your cutlasses." This oddity of expression will, it is not unlikely, send the men laughing into the fight and irresistible in their glee. Sir Charles is a man of deeds, not of words; he will make sure that the fire of his ships is quick and precise, and that the cutlasses shall be serviceable. But the Czar seems bent upon avoiding the shock of navies to the last. The defences at Cronstadt are strengthening, and the fortifications at Aland are being dismantled, and the island will be abandoned. The Russians appear to intend to wait for the British fleet in their inmost harbors. For that Sir Charles Napier prepares his men by telling them "we must try to get at them." This we have no doubt we shall soon hear he has attempted, and we will not allow ourselves to doubt the result, although prepared to expect a terrible scene of human slaughter and desolation. We can only say, with Lord John Russell, "God defend the right !"

As the realities of actual war with Russia are more and more plainly marked out, the public seem to reconcile themselves to the new position, both morally and commercially. The funds have rallied, trade is finding new channels for the few articles hitherto brought direct from Russia, and, knowing that war costs money, men pay the exhibit no quotable alteration. income tax, without first getting up indignation meetings against the impost. The strong and general feeling on the subject is evidently intense indignation against the ruler of Russia, and hope that the allied fleets and armies will take care that he shall receive a speedy and decisive defeat. The liberal and enlightened temper that has characterized the Orders in Council in reference to neutral rights, and the refusal to sanction privateering, have convinced the public mind that the new war will at least be waged in a better spirit than some former ones have been. It is felt that England is now at war for the vindication of a great principle, and the people of England now only require that the contest shall proceed as rapidly and effectively as possible, and that prompt victories shall inaugurate a prompt and honorable peace.

We must confess, however, that the present aspect of public affairs is far from being promising and cheering; tory that we scarcely know what is the actual state of the belligerents. One thing cannot be doubted, the Russians are advancing in great force on the southern side of the Danube, and on the 31st ultimo occupied a complete line in front of Trajan's wall, from the Danube to the Black Sea, and so far as we know they had reached that position without experiencing any material opposition. We have now a rumor of a great battle having evening last state as follows:

"The report of a defeat of the Turks at Silistria produced a great fall on the Bourse.

"The report of the defeat of the Russians at Silistria

is not confirmed."

to the war, and we have more than once had a mind to reopen the house the same night and to resume their say nothing upon the subject, for we literally know nothing about it.

Lord CLARENDON, who is likely to be well informed upon the subject, denies that Prussia has "entirely gone | tive offence; adds that a protocol has been signed by the Four Powers at Vienna, but that it is "not exactly what the English Government desired," and that it was modified by Austria "to meet the wishes of the Prussian Government." As the protocol has only reached this country " in an insent it to the House, but assured their Lordships that it "substantially", contained all the terms of the former

ments of Lord John Russell and Lord Clarendon, so far as they apply to these questions, are very discouraging. An account has been published showing the number of British troops who have already departed for the East to be, including men and officers of all ranks, full 30,000, besides 7,000 marines under the command of Admiral Dundas. The French force already on its route amounts to about 40,000. The Duke of CAMBRIDGE and Lord RAG-LAN, the commander-in-chief of the British forces in who of course are not yet properly formed. At times, in Turkey, have arrived in Paris, where they will remain marching, whole battalions sing in chorus either the naonly one day. Marshal St. Arnaud, commander of the tional anthem, which is a fine, solemn air, or some wild French forces, and Prince Napoleon left Paris some days

tria doing, and what are they about to do? The state-

under the advice of the Primate, Wednesday, the 26th instant, had been appointed for the national fast and humiliation on account of the war. The present Parliament is to have its way; the reform bill has been with. drawn. Lord John Russell announced the fact on Tuesday evening. All the day it had been rumored that his lordship had determined to resign his post as leader of the Commons, since his colleagues were unwilling to stand by their measure for reforming the representation: and when the time came for explaining the real state of the case the interest of a crowded house and gallery was

extreme. "It was evident," says an evening paper, "that the chief actor in the scene had gone through a severe mental struggle, and when towards the close of his address his utterance was choked, and he stood speechless with halfhysterical emotion, no one was surprised, though all were full of sympathy and ready to cheer the statesman who was evidently risking the reputation of an honorable political life by a doubtful step towards its close. Those cheers were loud and hearty enough, and often enough

Many new books are announced; among them a Life of Mrs. Opie; a Common-place Book of Thoughts, by Mrs. Jameson; the second volume of Chevalier Bunsen's "Egypt's Place in Universal History;" the seventh and eighth volumes of Moore's Memoirs and Correspondence; the Life of Luther, translated from the German of Gustav ; Konig, by Archdeacon Hare, &c.

There is very little news from any part of the continent of Europe except what is connected with the war in Turkey. There has been a breaking out in Barcelona. which was quelled with some difficulty. Spain is full of discontented people, and possessed with as revolutionary a spirit as any part of Europe, Italy not excepted. In Italy, however, the people are much more oppressed than in Spain. The Governments in Italy are radically wicked, in Spain it is lamentably weak. The diplomatic rupture between Turkey and Greece is complete, and there

is no doubt the Hellenic Government will soon be in factit has long been in principle—a firm ally of the Czar. All Greek subjects are to leave Constantinople within fifteen days from the 30th of March. Very late news from Constantinople states that the French General Canrobert, with 1,100 troops, had arrived there from Algiers, and that the city has been illuminated for a victory over the

APRIL 14 .- The news of this morning is more encouraging, but very vague. The English fleet in the Baltic has weighed anchor and sailed to the west, news having arrived that the Russian ports are open. St. Petersburgh was illuminated in celebration of the passage of the Da-

nube, Te Deums sung, and much rejeicing made. The last report from Turkey is that the allied fleets ar in communication with Kustendje, and that the marines can be landed if necessary at any point to aid and protect Russians at Trajan's wall in Bulgaria, and pressing the Turks. The English marines on board the fleet are 7,000; we do not know the number of the French. Admiral Dundas is said to have made a signal just before miral Napien has now open water in the Baltic, and we the last despatches left to "take, burn, and destroy may soon expect the booming of the first cannon. The every thing Russian." There is also news of Turkish victories.

All does not seem smooth between Austria and Prussia. The former is said to have objected to some of the conditions which the latter wished to introduce into the secret treaty.

Hanover and all the secondary and minor German Governments, except Bavaria, have declared for England and France, and are ready to support Austria against Prussia, should the Eastern question come before tha Federal Diet.

The French papers of this morning are full of details of the review which took place at Paris on Wednesday. It appears to have been a very splendid affair; upwards of 30,000 men were under arms, who went through their. manœuvres with much exactness, in the presence of the EMPEROR, the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, the French Minister amid the dangers and tribulations of my long campaign.

A few days after my arrival, on the 18th September, at War, Lord RAGLAN, and a numerous body of French and English general officers. It was an act of complete fraternization. The appearance and conduct of the French troops excited much approbation from the English officers. The Duke of Cambridge was, it is said, the bearer of a letter from the Queen of England to the Emperor of the French.

The Times of this morning gives the following comparative statement of the strength, &c. of the two English occurring in the section of geometry, it should be possible for the learned Assembly to elect M. Poisson at the

Vessels. Baltic fleet36 Black Sea fleet31	1,864	Men. 18,640 12,644		Tons. 67,525 49,992
67	3,138	31,284	19,610 1	17,517

The Baltic fleet will shortly be increased by three ships of war of 91 guns each, one of 84, one of 44, and several smaller vessels.

This is Good Friday, a dies non in business. The 3 per

FOREIGN ITEMS.

Letters from Constantinople allude to an Asiatic warrior-woman, Fatimé Hanem. She has arrived at Constantinople with six hundred horsemen as her suite. She is an old woman of about sixty years of age, of a very body have the right to say to me, Who assures you that withered appearance, and very like a gipsy. As she passed through the capital last week, scated on horseback like a man, thousands of people flocked to have a view of her, especially women. The Turkish females are quite he had counselled me, M. de Laplace adopted another taken aghast at this for the East most astonishing phenomenon, and eagerly pressed forward to catch a glimpse of this adventurous old dame as she cantered past them. pretend that at the age of twenty-three my scientific bag-"Mashallah! What a woman!"

Mr. Thackeray says, in the last number of the Newcomes, that, without wishing to disparage the youth of other nations, he thinks a well-bred English lad has this advantage over them, that his bearing is commonly more modest than theirs. "He does not assume the tail-coat but reports from the East are so various and contradic- and the manners of manhood too early; he holds his tongue and listens to his elders; his mind blushes as well as his cheek; he does not know how to make bows and pay compliments like the young Frenchman, nor to contradict his seniors, as, I am informed, American strip-

GAMING IN ENGLAND .- The Attorney General moved for and obtained leave to introduce into the British Parliament recently a bill for the more effectual prevention of gaming. He stated that the present law was inadequate tion. We have now a rumor of a great battle having been fought at Silistria, but the result is not known, for two succeeding paragraphs in a Paris paper of Monday ors, to keep out the police until all gaming implements were put out of the way. The parties found in the house when taken before a police magistrate servations relative to the verification of the laws of the would have caused him to triumph over a savant who had were necessarily discharged, and the owners were able to libration of the moon. All the calculations were pre- just discovered polarization by reflection, over a savant The same centradiction prevails in every thing relative were necessarily discharged, and the owners were able to practices. The impotence of the law arose from the difficulty of obtaining evidence, which would be removed if the system of barring out the police were put an end to. He proposed, therefore, to make this act a substanto authorize magistrates to select from parover to Russia," and does not believe the Chevalier Bun- ties brought before them, some for prosecution and others | had been published in the Recueil des Tables of the Bureau sex has been recalled from his mission to England. He to be witnesses; and to make the giving a false name and address an offence.'

SHAKSPEARE'S BIRTHDAY .- We understand that a letter was lately received from London with the information that the birthday of the immortal Shakspeare is this year to be observed as a holyday through many of the cities of England, more particularly at time-honored Windsor, complete shape," the Foreign Secretary declined to pre- the scene of his most popular comedy. The fete, however, is almost exclusively to be confined to ladies. A large party of "Merry Wives" intend to leave London in the morning, and, we doubt not, Mrs. Cowden Clarke will convention. We are certainly anxious for good news from be among the number, as that lady took a prominent part the Baltic and from Turkey; but, in our opinion, the great in the performance of the play when Charles Dickens questions of the moment are, what are Prussia and Aus. and other amateurs performed it in so many parts of England to aid in the purchase of the Shakspear The birthday, 23d April, this year falling on a Sunday, the file is to be celebrated on Monday.

We have little doubt that her Majesty, as one of the merry wives," will countenance the celebration.

Russian Troops .- There were about five hundred Russians quartered in the neighborhood of the khan. They had that staid, soldierly look which is the effect of severe discipline. This I observed to be the characteristic of nearly all the Russian soldiers that I have seen in the Principalities. The exceptions are the young recruits. melody, generally of a warlike character, interspersed with a sharp and occasional shrill whistle. These latter ngs are particularly animated and spirit-stirring, and The Earl of ABERDEEN announced on Saturday that, the quick rattle of the drum, which is the sole instrumenaccompaniment, increases their exciting character. To the listener there is something sublime in thus hearing thousands of manly voices blended together in chorus, uttering sentiments of devotion to God and the Emperor or of fierce defiance to the enemies of the Czar.

[O'Brien's Travels. MEMORANDA OF SNOW, &c. IN APRIL.

1820,	April	2, six inches snow.
44	64	4, hard frost.
1821,	- 64	3, 14, severe frost.
1824,	14	15, light snow.
1825,	66	2, 3, cold and snow.
1826,	4.6	10, cold and snow.
**	16	11, thick ice.
41	14	12, creek frozen over.
1831,	4.	8, 9, light snow.
1832,	- 66	8, ice.
1833,	44	12, 13, 14, stormy and very cold.
1884.	66	24, 25, frost.
1855,	*1	15, rain and snow.
- 64	44	17, 18, clear, cold and ice.
1836,	44	6, 7, fields covered with snow.

5, cloudy, mod. snow. 6, fair and ice. 1838, 14, overcast, snow, rain, hail, &c. 15, hail, snow, thunder. 19, ice and cold, spits of snow. 20, ice thick, clear. 1839. 18, cloudy, cold, clear, frost 9, light snow.

1845, 8, frost and heavy blow. hard frost. 1849. 15, ice. 19, snow and stormy. 9, ice, and 10, snow 3 inches deep. 14, 18, clear and ice. 13, snowstorm all afternoon. 19, great flood, 15, rain and cold, hail. 16, snow, bail, rain. 17, deep snow.

18, cloudy, slush.

WASHINGTON, APRIL, 1854.

ago, has just appeared. The volume is introduced by a volume ago, has just appeared. The volume is introduced by a preface from the pen of the illustrious Humboldt, who was an old, warm, and constant friend of Arago. The preface itself is highly interesting. The mere name of its author would make it welcome to your columns. its author would make it welcome to your columns. shall perhaps include it in a subsequent letter. The In the session of Congress to foreign correspondence, but I feel confident that room will be found for the following "What, is the entire Senate melting away into the Inextract from an autobiographic sketch of what Arago him-stitute?" self has entitled "The History of My Youth." After having recounted the story of his very early youth, baving recounted the story of his very early youth, but borious subsequent studies, his participation in the arduous scientific operations in Spain which resulted in arduous scientific operations in Spain which resulted in from the civil uniforms, and joined the big epaulettes the establishment of the Metre, the base of the metrical that were now filling the saloon. system of weights and measures, his subsequent peril ous royages on the coast of Africa, his capture and imprisonment in Africa, Arago tells of his release and of his embarking again for France. The extract I have chosen upon the rolls could not continue longer than four years; commences at the moment of his landing on his native consequently, I had been ordered to return to France in soil, whither he was returning to occupy, at the age of order to undergo the final examinations. But in the mean twenty-three, the seat in the Academy of Sciences left time Lelande had died, and a place had become vacant vacant by Lalande. Arago says: vacant by Lalande. Arago says:

of Longitudes and at the Academy of Sciences my notes and observations which I had succeeded in preserving 1809, I was elected academician in place of Lalande. There were fifty-two votes. I obtained forty-seven votes, M. Poisson four, and M. Nouet one. I was at that time twenty-three years of age. It would seem, at first sight, that a nomination made by so large a majority could not have encountered serious difficulty. There was, however, serious opposition made to mine. M. de Laplace, prior to the day of election, interfered actively and intessantly to cause my nomination to be deferred until, a vacancy same time with myself. The author of the Mechanique Celeste had bestowed upon the young geometer an unbounded attachment, and this attachment was in fact completely justified by the remarkable works for which as already indebted to him. M. de Laplace could not bear the idea that an astronomer younger by five years than M. Poisson, that a pupil in presence of his professor at the Polytechnic School, should become an academician before him. He caused it, therefore, to be suggested to me that I should write to the Academy that I did not desire to be elected until there should be a se-ment. I have determined to leave very soon for Thibet with M. de Humboldt. In those wild regions the title of member of the institute weuld smooth none of the difficulties we are likely to encounter. But I will not make mysulf guilty of unbecoming conduct towards the Academy. If the pupils of the Polytechnic School on so difficult a theory."

"Try!" he replied, "and you will see that this theory is clearer than is generally supposed." I did try, and I found in fact that, as M. Monge had said, the thing was not said that the pupils of the Polytechnic with M. de Humboldt. In those wild regions the title of School on so difficult a theory." Upon receiving a declaration such as that which is asked of me, would not the savans composing that illustrious he had counselled me, M. de Laplace adopted another mode of opposition. He maintained that my titles to gage was positively very considerable. But when I appreciated it by comparison I took courage, the more especially when I reflected that the three last years of my life had been devoted to the measurement of an arc of the meridian in a foreign country, that they had passed in the midst of the storms of the Spanish war, often enough in dungeons, or, what was worse still, upon the mountains of Kabylie and at Algiers, at that time a very dangerous place of residence. But here is the schedule of scientific effects at that date. I present it for the impartial appreciation of the reader. On leaving the Poly-School I had prepared, in concert with M. Biot, echnic an extensive and very delicate work on the determination of the co-efficient of the tables of atmospheric refraction. We measured also the refraction of different gases; a thing which up to that time had not been attempted. A more exact determination than had been previous-

of mercury had afforded a direct value of the co-efficient of they were often ruined. The police were empowered to enter houses; but the law was defeated, because the owners of these private establishments were enabled by day and night, with the meridian telescope and the mural adrant, at the Observatory of Paris.

> I had undertaken, in conjunction with M. Bouvard, obpared, and it only remained to put the numbers in the formulas, when by order of the Bureau of Longitudes I I had, in concert with M. Bouvard, calculated, according to the formula of Laplace, the table of refraction, which des Longitudes and in the Connaissance des Temps. A work upon the velocity of light, accomplished with a prism placed before the object-glass of the telescope of the mural circle, had proved that the same tables of refraction would serve for the sun and all the stars. Finally, I had just terminated, under very difficult circumstances, the grandest trigonometrical survey that had ever been executed for the prolongation of the meridian of France to

the island of Formentera. M. de Laplace, without denving the importance and the utility of these labors and researches, only saw in them good promise. Then M. Lagrange replied to him in these "But you yourself, Monsieur de Laplace, when you entered the Academy, had accomplished nothing very remarkable; you merely gave good promise. Your great discoveries have only come since your admission."

Lagrange was the sole man in Europe who could with

authority address to M. de Laplace such an observation The latter took no notice of the personal alfuas that. sion to himself, but added: "I insist upon it that it is expedient to exhibit to young savans membership of the Institute as a reward to excite their zeal."

"You resemble," rejoined M. Hallé, "that coach-driver who, to quicken the speed of his horses, fastened a bundle of fodder to the end of the tongue of his carriage. The poor animals redoubled their efforts, but the bundle of fodder ever fled before them; and at last, the practice being continued, the horses fell away and soon died."

Delambre, Legendre, and Biot insisted upon the devo-Delambre, Legendre, and Biot insisted upon the devo-tion, and upon what they called the courage, with which I in Academic elections. had combatted inextricable difficulties, whether to complete the observations or to save the instruments and the notes of the results which had been obtained. They drew an animated picture of the dangers I had incurred. de Laplace finally yielded on seeing that all the most distinguished members of the Academy had taken me under their patronage, and when the election came on he his vote. It would have been to me, I confess, a of forty-two years, if I had become a member of the Institute without the vote of the author of the Mechanique

It was the custom always to present newly-elected members of the Institute to the Emperor after he had confirmed their nominations. A day was fixed, when, accompanied by the presidents, by the secretaries of the four classes, and by such academicians as had particular publications to present to the Chief of the State, they repaired to one of the saloous of the palace of the Tuileries. When the Emperor returned from mass he passed a sort of review of these savans, and artists, and literati in green coats. I must declare that the spectacle of which was a witness on the day of my presentation did not edify me. I experienced even a positive feeling of dis-pleasure on seeing the eagerness to cause themselves to tain a single vote; that, moreover, I was already invested

be noticed exhibited by members of the Institute. proached; and then, without waiting for a flattering reply, which it would not have been difficult to find, he ided: "What is your name?" And my neighbor on the right, not leaving me time to answer the question, which it must be admitted was a very simple one, that had just been addressed to me, hastened to say, "His name is

"Which of the sciences is it that you cultivate " My neighbor on the left instantly replied, "He culti-

"And what is that you have done?" My neighbor on the right, vexed that he of the left had intrenched on his right to the second question, was now eager to get the start, and made haste to respond,

' He has just measured the meridian of Spain. The Emperor, supposing doubtless that he had before him either a dnmh man or a sim other member of the Institute. an or a simpleton, passed on to an-This was no new comer. It was the naturalist, Lamarck, who had distinguished himself by some fine and important discoveries. The old man presents a book to Napoleon.

into tears.

But the Emperor next met with a more rude tilter h telligencer has, I know, but little space to accord during the person of Lanjuinais. Lanjuinais had approached the the session of Congress to foreign correspondence, but I Emperor with a book in his hand, when Napoleon, sneer-

Immediately after my nomination I became the subject acant by Lalande. Arago says:

astronomer adjunct. As these were places to which the My quarantine over, I proceeded immediately to Per- Emperor had nominated me, M. Lacuée, director of the pignan, to the bosom of my family, where my mother, the most respectable and the most pious of women, caused many a mass to be said in celebration of my return, as she had caused many a one to be said for the repose of my soul when she believed that I had fallen beneath the continue my scientific pursuits; but M. Matthieu, successor of M. Lacuće, took a different view of the question, and he ordered me to furnish a substitute, or to join scientific pursuits. poignard of the Spaniards. But I soon left my native in person the contingent of the twelfth arrondissement of city to return to Paris, where I deposited at the Bureau of Longitudes and at the Academy of Sciences my notes decision, nor all that my friends could say, had any effect, I announced to the honorable general that I would make my appearance upon the place de l'Estrapade, where the ripts under orders to leave had been required to rendezyous, in the costume of member of the Institute and that I would traverse the city of Paris, in that uni form, a-foot. Gen. Matthieu Dumas, alarmed at the effect which such a scene would produce upon the Empero who was himself a member of the Institute, was enough, after my threat, to confirm the decision of Gen

In the year 1809 I was chosen by the Council of Im provement of the Polytechnic School as successor to M Monge, in the professorship of Analysis applied to Geo-metry. The circumstances which attended this election have remained a secret. I improve the first opportunity which offers itself to me to make them known.

M. Monge took the trouble one day to come to the Ob servatory and ask me to lecture for him when he found it inconvenient to occupy the chair himself. . I declined this honor, alleging a project of travel that I was con-templating in company with M. de Humboldt into Central Asia. "But it will certainly be some months yet before you leave," said the illustrious geometer; "you can therefore act for a short time at any rate." I replied, "Your proposition is infinitely flattering to me; but I do not know whether I ought to accept of it. I have never

not so difficult. But the public at that time could no understand how it happened that the kind-hearted M Monge should resolutely persist in refusing to confide his course of lectures to his tutor, M. Binet, whose zeal was

well known. I will now disclose the reason.

There was at that time, in the wood of Boulogne, ouse called la Maison grise, where were accustomed to assemble around M. Coessin, the high priest of a new religion, a certain number of disciples, such as Lesueur, the musician, Colin, tutor at the School of Chemistry, M. Binet, &c. A report of the Prefect of Police had signalized to the Emperor the frequenters of la Maison grise as members of the Society of Jesuits. The Emperor mani-

dested uneasiness and irritation at this intelligence.

"So!" said he one day to M. Monge, "here are your dear pupils becoming disciples of Loyola!" Monge protested against the charge. "You deny it," rejoined the Emperor. "Well, let me inform you that the tutor con nected with your course of lectures belongs to this clique. Every body will understand how, after an interview this kind, Monge could not consent to allow his chair to be filled by M. Binet.

Entering the Academy young, enthusiastic, impulsive I took a more active part in elections than was befitting my position and age. Having now reached a period in my life when I may look back and scrutinize my conduct with calmness and impartiality, I can do myself the jus-tice to say that, except upon three or four occasions, my vote and efforts were always bestowed upon the most worthy candidate; and more than once I have succeeded vote and efforts were in preventing the Academy from making deplorable elec-tions. Who can blame me for having warmly supported the candidacy of Malus, when it is reflected that his rival, Girard, p nown as a physician, received votes out of fifty-three, and that a change of five votes whom all Europe would have nominated by acclamation The same remarks are applicable to the nomination of was compelled to leave Paris and proceed to Spain. I Poisson, who would have been defeated by this same M. Gi-had observed various comets and calculated their orbits. not that suffice to justify the extraordinary arder of my ef forts. And although, upon the occasion of a third elec-tion, the Academy pronounced in favor of this engineer, I cannot repent me of having supported up to the very last moment, with conviction and earnestness, the candi-

dacy of his rival, M. Dulong. I do not suppose that any body in the scientific world s disposed to blame me for having preferred M. Liouville to M. de Pontecoulant. It sometimes happened that the Government denied to the Academy the choice of its members. Strong in my

right I invariably resisted all these injunctions. Upon one occasion this resistance was visited severely upon one of my friends, upon the venerable Legendre. For my own art. I had prepared myself in advance for all the cution of which I might become the object. Having received from the Minister of the Interior an invitation to vote for M. Binet and against M. Navier to fill a vacancy in the section of mechanics, M. Legendre nobly replied that he would vote according to his conscientious convictions. Legendre was immediately deprived of a pension which had been accorded to him in consideration of his great age and long services. The protegé of Government was defeated; and this result was at the time generally attributed to the zeal with which I remonstrated in the Academy against this unbecoming interference of the Minister of the Interior.

Upon another occasion the King desired that the Academy should elect Dupuytren, an eminent surgeon, but a man to whom very grave obliquities of character were re-proached. Dupuytren was elected; but several blank

I would recommend savans, who, entering the Academy at an early age, should be tempted to follow my example, to count solely upon the testimony of their own consciences. I warn them, and I do so from my own experience, that gratitude will almost never be manifested where they would expect to find it. The academician nominated, and whose merit you have perhaps exalted beyond measure, pretends that you were merely doing him ource of regret, even at the present time, after the lapse justice, that you have only performed your duty, and that consequently he is not at all bound to set any thing down to your credit.

Delambre died 19th August, 1822. After the usual regular delays the Academy proceeded to supply his place. The post of perpetual secretary is not one of those that may be left for a long time vacant. A committee was appointed for the presentation to the Academy of candidates for this office. It was composed of MM. Laplace, Arago, Legendre, Rossel, Prony, Lacroix. The list pre-sented to the Academy contained the following names of candidates: MM. Biot, Fourier, and Arago. Preed not say without persistance I opposed the inscription of my own name upon the list. I had to yield to the will of my but I seized the first occasion to declare pub with as many functions as I could perform the duties of "You are quite young," said Napoleon to me as he ap- that M. Biot himself was in a similar position; so that my own wishes were plainly and sincerely expressed in favor of the election of M. Fourier. It was pretended, but I dare not flatter myself that the fact was really so, that my declaration exercised a certain influence upon the result of the vote. This result was as follows: thirty-eigh votes in favor of M. Fourier, and ten for M. Biot. In elections of perpetual secretary every member carefully conceals his vote, in order to avoid the chance of future disagreement with one invested by the Academy with the

authority which appertains to this office.

I know not if I shall be pardoned for inserting here as incident connected with this election, and which at the moment afforded the Academy much amusement. M. de Laplace, when about to give his vote, took two slips of white paper. A colleague close by committed the culpa ble indiscretion of overlooking his neighbor. He distinct ly saw the illustrious geometer write the name of Fourier upon both slips. After quietly folding them, M. de La-place put the two ballots in his hat, and shook his hat, saving at the same time to his curious neighbor "You see I have written two ballots; I am going to tear

THE WORKS OF FRANCOIS ARAGO.

"What is that?" said the latter. "It is your absurd work on meteorology. It is that work by which you make yourself the rival of Matthieu Laensburg, a work that disgraces your old age. Continue your labors in natural history, and I will receive your productions with pleasure. I accept this volume only from consideration for proaching publication of which I announced some time ago, has just appeared. The volume is introduced by

he calculation of probability.

Having fulfilled the functions of secretary with muci distinction, but not without some slackness and some neg-ligence, caused by his ill-health, Fourier died 16th May, 1830. I declined several times the honor which the Academy seemed desirous to do me by nominating me as his successor. I believed, without false modesty, that I did not possess the qualifications necessary for suitably per-forming this important function. When, however, thirtynine votes out of forty-four designated me for the office I was compelled to yield to an opinion so flattering and so distinctly announced. On the 7th June, 1830, therefore, I became perpetual secretary of the Academy for the Mathematical Sciences. But in conformity with my opinions respecting the holding a plurality of offices, and which I had used as an argument, in November, 1822, to support the candidacy of Fourier, I declared that I would resign my professorship at the Polytechnic School. Neither the solicitations of Marshal Soult, Minister of War, nor those of the most eminent members of the Academy, could induce me to abandon this resolution.

THE ECLIPSE.

On Friday, the 26th of May next, there will occur an annular eclipse of the Sun, which will be visible in Massachusetts. It-will commence at thirty-three minutes past 4 o'clock in the morning, and continue two hours and four minutes, or until about twenty-three minutes before 7 o'clock. So our maders will have to rise betimes to see it. In this eclipse the apparent diameter of the moon compared with that of the sun will be about as 18 to 19, and consequently some nine-tenths of the sun will be covered. The path of the eclipse will cross the western part of the Atlantic ocean, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Upper Canada, Lake Superior, Northwest and Washington Territories, and thence through the southern edge of British America to the Pacific ocean. The central line of the eclipse will enter New England near Portsmouth, and its path will extend sixty-two miles on either side. Boston will fall within its path. To those on the central line the sun will appear, during the middle of the cellipse, like a huge circle of light, the moon covering every part except a very narrow rim on the outside. In Boston the appearance will be much the same, only the ring of light will be wider on one side than on the other. The central path of the eclipse will be from Kittery, opposite Portsmouth, in a northwesterly direction, through the towns of Dover, Barrington, Pittsfield, Cauterbury, Franklin, Hill, Grafton, and Lebanon. The eclipse will, however, be visible, to a greater or less extent, in all parts of North America excepting Guatemala and the southwest part of Mexico. It will also be visible in Iceland, Greenland, Northern Russia, parts of Sweden and Norway, the eastern part of Asia, the West Indies, and in the northern countries of South America .- Boston Journal.

THE SEARCH FOR SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.

On the 31st of March the names of the officers and crews of the Erebus and Terror were struck from the rolls of the British navy, it being considered by the Lords of the Admiralty that they had died in the service. In January last, when the announcement of this intention was first made, Lady FRANKLIN addressed a letter to the Board, protesting in elequent and impassioned terms against the decision. She strongly urged as a reason why such announcement should not be made that an expedition, under the direction of the Admiralty, was already in the Arctic waters, and that if it were wisdom to send the expedition it was proper to await the result. It was also urged that no evidence had ever been discovered of the destruction of the ships, and the supposition ably argued that Sir John Franklin and his party might still be alive. The subject was brought before Parliament on the 4th instant, when Sir James Graham, a member of the Cabinet, made an explanation:

"That he should neglect his duty if he did not impossome limit on the search after Sir John Franklin, which had now been protracted for many years, and was unhap-pily attended with great risk and possible loss of life. He had not hitherto thought it expedient to suspend the sending of additional ships, or to refuse incurring addi-tional expense, for he had deemed it right in the present year to send some additional vessels both to the American and Eastern shores. A ship had been sent to Beh ring's Straits for the purpose of communicating, if possi-ble, with those vessels which had passed three winters within the ice. The House was aware that two ships had entered Behring's Straits in search of Sir John Franklin. Capt. Maclure succeeded in effecting his passage to the eastward, and the gratifying intelligence had been received that he was safe; but he regretted to add that, with respect to Capt. Collinson, no information had been received, and great anxiety and most serious apprehensions were entertained with respect to him. He was last seen on the western edge near Behring's Straits, and instrucons had been sent that if happi should be safe he should at once leave the ice, and also all the ships; but if any circumstances should occur which might excite a last lingering hope that assistance might yet be given to Sir John Franklin, and that his safety might still be secured-though there was hardly in his (Sir J. Graham's) opinion any hope left with regard to the safety of that gallant officer and his companions then orders would be given for the prolonged stay of the ships of search for the period of a year. But with that single exception it would not be consistent with his (Sir J. Graham's) duty to promise any of her Majesty's ships for the search.'

SUBMARINE OPERATIONS.

Messrs. Wells & Gowen, submarine contractors, of the ity of Boston, have just concluded a contract with the New York underwriters and Havre Steam Navigation Company, interested in the steamship Humboldt, of three thousand tons, (sunk near Halifax the past winter,) to recover the remains of her valuable cargo, engines, boilers, and other materials, which they intend to accou during the present season. The weight of the machinery alone is about sixteen hundred tons.

The same firm have also contracted with the underwriters on the ill-fated ship Staffordshire, lost near Cape Sable, to recover her immense and valuable cargo. The operations upon the Staffordshire will be superintende Mr. George Pierce, an accomplished engineer. Mr. John Tope (one of the engineers) is now absent at Cape Sable, ascertaining the position and soundings of the above-named ship. The property will undoubtedly be all recovered in the course of three or four months, and is valued at several hundred thousand dollars.

These gentlemen have other heavy contracts for submarine operations during the ensuing season, giving employment to a large number of vessels and men, and are the same parties who removed the wreck of the United States steam-frigate Missouri from the Bay of Gibraltar, under contract with the United States Government, after the work had been pronounced impracticable by the first engineering talent in Europe. They have the most complete and powerful machinery, armors, batteries, &c. in the world, and five years' experience in all kinds of submarine operations. Their machinery (which is of their own manufacture) is adapted for the deepest as well as the shoalest water, and their divers cannot be excelled Their means are fully adequate to carry on successfully these extensive operations without the aid of an "act of incorporation." Success to them !— Boston Courier.

CONDITIONAL LEGISLATION.-The Richmond Enquirer speaking in reference to the modern plan of submitting laws to the people for ratification after they had been passed by the Legislature, says very truly that the practice "is an invention of modern times, and is as base in its origin as it is vicious in its tendency. Before public men began to lose the virtues of manliness and independence they did not attempt to evade the responsibilities of duty. But the spirit of demagogism is as fatal to personal courage as to genuine patriotism, and when men began to make the interests of the State subordinate to schemes of individual aggrandizement, they lost the dignity and manliness of character which shrink not from the responsibilities of public duty. Then they began to invent devices for evading the just responsibility of position, and then for the first time was introduced the expedient of conditional legislation." The Enquirer is right. The plan of sending out bills to the people for ra tification originated in the feeble and indefinite purposes of legislators who passed prohibitory liquor laws, and were at the same time afraid to stand by them unless they could get an endorsement of their acts from the people. The evil has, however, about come to an end, since courts have decided that laws passed with such trammel are unconstitutional, and people every where condemn such pusillanimous and half-finished legislation.

AVARICE AND DESTITUTION .- An inquest was held in Ne York on Saturday on the body of Mary Bogard, aged eighty, who was found dead at No. 5 East Clinton Place. She and her son, aged about fifty, a half lunatic, had subsisted for many years by begging and collecting rags. Her body was found under a large pile of rags, where her son had concealed it for two days, so that their funds might not be discovered. They had an account of \$206.81 at the Bowery Savings Bank, and \$10.05 in cash ; but nevertheless the old woman

KEEP IT BEFORE THE PROPLE

The Washington National Monument, dedicated by a grateful People to Pater Patria. This noble structure has now attained a height of one

hundred and fifty feet, founded on a solid granite base of eighty-one feet square. The shaft of the obelisk, rising from the base, is constructed of solid blocks of crystal marble, which face the exterior, and backed within with equally massive blocks of granite, forming a wall of fifteen feet thick, all laid in hydraulic mortar; between the beds of the marble courses are placed lead plates, to guard the sharp edges of the stone from immediate contact when the great weight from above shall press on them. The finished altitude of this central structure is designed to be six hundred feet, which will exceed every artificial construction in the world. The interior of this shaft is twenty-five feet square, presenting a circuit of wall of one hundred feet, which will be enriched with the beautiful mementoes of a grateful people, not only of our own country, but we may say of every country in the world. What a galaxy of sympathy and admiration and beauty will be found here to greet the eye of the visiter! What a source of thought and feeling will he find here recorded on the silent marble as he shall ascend to the summit of the monument! If in his admiration he should exclaim the monument! If in his admiration he should exclaim aloud, how beautiful! echo will repeat a hundred times above him, "beautiful beautiful, beautiful!" When this lofty shaft shall have attained its maximum height, then shall the grand Pantheon encircle its base with a circuit of 750 feet, opened by a massive colonnade of as many columns as there are signers of the Declaration of American Independence. The columns of this colonnade will be twelve feet in diameter and fifty feet high, surrounded by an entablature twenty feet high, enriched will be twelve feet in diameter and fifty feet high, surrounded by an entablature twenty feet high, enriched with the coat of arms of every State in the Union, crowned by a balustrade fifteen feet high, forming a second colonnade, surrounding the terrace of the Pantheon. The whole height of this Pantheon, including its stylobate or base, is to be one hundred feet, having one grand entrance through a portico, over which, as a base, is to be placed a colossal statue of Washington in a chariot, drawn by six horses abreast, driven by Victory.

a colossal statue of washington in a charlot, drawn by six horses abreast, driven by Victory.

The magnificent terrace which will crown the Pantheon, 750 feet in circuit, is ornamented with four circular temples, which surround four apertures for lighting the cella below. At the base of the four façades of the obelisk cella below. cella below. At the base of the four façades of the obelisk are four tablets of sculpture, representing the battle-scenes of the Revolution—Yorktown, Trenton, Monmouth, and Brandywine; and far up in the blue expanse shines out from the summit of the shaft the star of his glory.

The cella of the Pantheon is entered by a grand flight of marble steps in front of the portico. Here is represented the glorious galaxy of the heroes of the Revolution of 1776, the compatriots of Washington, whose statues are to grace the scene; and above these are to be placed are to grace the scene; and above these are to be placed tablets on the walls representing the battles and other scenes in which they were engaged. In the centre of the cella is the court and grand stairway of the obelisk, the walls enriched on every side with the mementoes of Pater Patrixe, as before mentioned. Ascending these stairs and reaching the grand terrace, an archway leads down under the balustrade by a flight of stone steps into a vaulted gallery, which connects to a series of cabinets, one for each State in the Union. Here are to be deposited the records of the names of the contributors towards the erection of the Monument; for it was the resolve of the Managers of this work that the honor of its erection should be the People's, and that it should be called the People's Monument to the Father of his Country. Here is presented the incentive to this generation to con forward liberally and without delay and contribute of their abundance to complete within their own age this

monument to him who perilled all for the liberty and blessings they now enjoy.

Who desires to have his or her name handed down to ages yet unborn, to be gratefully remembered by these who shall come after them, relative or stranger? Here hen is the incentive, the way of realizing this grateful feeling. And when, in after ages, your descendants shall visit the Monument, and search these records, deposited under the name of the State and the county or the town where there forefathers and mothers resided, with what delight will they look on their signatures and contributions towards the erection of this great work! But enough has been said on this interesting subject. What remains to say is, if you, fellow-citizens, men and women, one and all, would give but one dime each, (ten cents,) twenty millions of dimes would be realized, which would meet every expense of the work to completion. Who has patriotism enough in each county, town, district, hundred f every State and Territory of our happy land, to enter on the pleasant duty of collecting the din ing them in the treasury of their State to the credit of the Monument? Let such announce their generous intent to the Board of Managers of the Washington Monument.

BUYING AND SELLING FLOUR.

A correspondent, who dates his letter from the "Banks of the Monocacy," desires us to let him into "some of the secrets of the flour trade" of Baltimore, and adds :

"We see by your paper that there is considerably more of flour sold in your city than received-sold b quantity, independent of home use. Now, how can this be? Only, we judge, by fictitious sales. If so, they should not be reported, and only bona fide sales noticed by your paper. Such a course has a pernicious tendency on the milling interest within its influence, and we think should be frowned down by the press."

Our correspondent is evidently not fully aware of the changes which are daily, we may almost say hourly, taking place in the modes of doing business in cities In a city judgment is capital, opinion is capital, foresight is capital; and each and all of these qualities are also used as merchandise-either as flour, pork, sugar, cotton, or tobacco, according to the inclination of the dealer. A man may be a large operator in the stock market and never hold a share of stock; so also in flour and other merchantable products. Sales are generally made by such dealers for future delivery, and the purchaser may at his option either receive the article or receive or pay the difference between the selling price and the market value at the time of its delivery. again, many of our largest dealers often own the same parcel of flour two or three times. A dealer may have a arge lot of flour on hand at a period when he thinks the market is at its highest range, and sells it all off. In a few days the price may fall a half dollar a barrel, and, this flour being forced on the market by the decline, he may again purchase it. He thus sells on his judgment, and buys it back on his judgment, and we doubt not that many lots of flour are sold several times over after arrival and before they are finally sold for export. Such is the course of trade in all cities, and we cannot perceive in what way it injures either the miller or the merchant, as apprehended by our correspondent.

As to the objection to such sales being reported, we think it would be a difficult matter for our commercial editor to undertake to distinguish between what our correspondent terms "figtitious" and "bona fide" sales. In indertaking so to do he would be exercising his judgment on a most delicate matter, and would be liable to err as often as he would be correct. When a sale is made on time, for future delivery, it is so reported; and we apprehead that all dealers and millers will be able to form cir conclusions as to the character of such sales. They are sales in which the opinion is the commodity bought and sold—the seller selling and the buyer buying on their individual views as to the price that will prevail at the time of delivery. Thus, when flour is bringing \$8 per barrel, a sale may be made for delivery a month hence at \$7, and if the seller is known to be a shrewd and successful dealer his opinion, thus backed by his flour, may emporarily depress the market; but we cannot see on what good ground either the miller or merchant can obect to such sales. Certain we are that no objections would stop them, and that the failure to report them would be adopting a course that has never been pursued by any commercial paper in the leading flour marts of the country .- Baltimore American.

OREGON AND WASHINGTON TERRITORIES. We have files of Oregon papers to the 18th of March. Bishop Simpson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, arrived at Portland on the 15th in good health. He

was to open the Conference at Salem on the 21st of that There had been some trouble with the Snohomish Indians in the neighborhood of Cape Flattery. Two In-dians were suspected of the murder of Mr. C. C. Terry, of Alki, by whom they had been engaged as guides, and the

Sheriff and a posse tried to arrest them. The Indians resisted, a white man was mortally wounded, and nine Indians were killed. Governor STEVENS had gone to the The Legislature of Washington Territory was in session at OLYMPIA. Hon. Wm. STRONG and Judges Mon-

ROE and LANDERS had been appointed to prepare a code of laws. Governor STRYENS's message to the Legislature of laws. Governor STEVENS's message to the is very favorably spoken of, and is a frank and able do-

ASSASSINATION.—We learn from the Washington (Ark.) Telegraph that Capt. Richard H. Finn was assassinated at his residence in that vicinity on the 3d instant. He was shot through the window, while in the presence of his family. He died instantly. The infamous deed was committed in the darkness of the night.